

The following specimens were exhibited:—

By R. H. Burne: Tracks made by a snail (*Helix aspersa*) when feeding on a lichen-covered piece of wood.

By E. R. Sykes: A large series of varieties of *Nerita Rumphii*, Récluz.

By Mr. A. S. Kennard: Common land-shells (*Helix aspersa*, *H. arbustorum*) taken from crevices in the lower parts of a Roman wall. The specimens were found two feet below the surface of the ground.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THOMAS GEORGE BOND HOWES, LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., who ably officiated as President of this Society during the years 1895 and 1896, died on February 4th last, at his residence at Chiswick, aged 57. Professor Howes, although not a specialist as a malacologist, had a considerable knowledge of the general anatomy of Mollusca, so that in this respect he was always of great service in the discussion of such anatomical subjects as came before the meetings of the Society. The able reviews of the current work on malacology which he delivered, as presidential addresses, will be well remembered by all those who were present on those two occasions, or who have since read them, as masterly compositions, teeming with information and instructive criticism, and which must have entailed enormous labour and research.

The greater part of Professor Howes' scientific career was passed at the Royal College of Science under his beloved master Huxley, after whose death he was appointed in 1895 Professor of Zoology. He also held many other scientific appointments. At one time he was Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy at St. George's Hospital Medical School. He was also a Vice-President and Member of the Council of the Zoological Society, honorary secretary of the zoological section of the Linnean Society, President of Section D of the British Association at Belfast in 1902, Examiner in Zoology to the University of London and other institutions, honorary member of the New Zealand Institute, corresponding member of the New York Academy of Science, etc. In 1897 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Howes was essentially a teacher and lecturer. His mastery of detail was surprising, and a fault, if it could be regarded as such, was the enormous mass of facts which crowded his addresses, showing the vast amount of reading and study which he had devoted to their preparation. Nothing seemed too minute in detail to him to be passed over, and this completeness was a marked character of his researches. Perhaps the bulk of his writings may not be great, but many of his memoirs were important contributions to science, adding much to his repute as an accomplished and original investigator. Apart from his loss to the scientific world, his death must be deplored very deeply by all those who had the privilege of knowing him personally. He was exceptionally charming and kindly in disposition, and ever ready to assist anyone who was desirous of consulting him for advice and assistance.

E. A. S.

Professor Dr. CARL EDUARD VON MARTENS, a member of this Society since the year 1893, died last year, on August 14th, aged 73. He was born at Stuttgart in 1831, and studied both medicine and natural history. He was appointed assistant in the Zoological Museum of the Berlin University in 1855, with which institution he was connected for fifty years. In 1859 he became attached to the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, of which he eventually became second Director, and in recent years he was honoured with the rank of Privy Councillor.

In 1860 he accompanied the Prussian expedition to Eastern Asia in the "Thetis," visiting Japan, China, Siam, Java, and Celebes. He also explored the Sunda Islands. On his return to Europe he worked out the collections obtained during the expedition, and published the results in two volumes, constituting the Zoologischer Theil of the "Preussische Expedition nach Ost-Asien." Vol. ii, consisting of 447 pages and 22 plates, contained a very full account of the land molluscs.

Other important works written by Martens are:—(1) his report on the land and fresh-water Mollusca in the "Biologia Centrali-Americana," occupying 706 pages and illustrated with 44 plates; (2) the molluscan portion in Möbius's "Beiträge zur Meeres Fauna der Insel Mauritius und der Seychellen," 168 pages and 4 plates (1880); (3) "Beschalte Weichthiere Deutsch-Ost-Afrikas," 308 pages and 7 plates (1897); (4) monographs of the genera *Nerita*, *Neritina*, and *Navicella*, in the Conchylien Cabinet, 506 pages and 48 plates; (5) "Conchologische Mittheilungen," 3 vols., 232 pages and 48 plates; (6) "Die Binnenmollusken Venezuela's," 68 pages and 2 plates (1873); (7) "Vorderasiatische Conchylien," 127 pages and 9 plates (1874); (8) Mollusca in Max Weber's "Zoologische Ergebnisse," vol. ii, 52 pages and 3 plates; vol. iv, 331 pages and 12 plates (1897); (9) Mollusca of the Deutschen Tiefsee Expedition, 1898-99, vol. vii, 146 pages and 5 plates.

In addition to these more extensive memoirs, Martens wrote over 200 separate papers in scientific publications, many of them being of the greatest utility to the systematist.

Besides his work on Mollusca, Martens wrote upon all branches of zoology, but especially upon Crustacea and Echinoderms. He was a most excellent correspondent and spared no trouble in giving information and answering difficult questions, and in this respect he will be a great loss to many. Although personally unknown to most English conchologists, we have been assured by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance that he possessed a most kind and charming manner.

With regard to the merit of Martens' conchological work, its excellence is so universally admitted that no further comment or recognition of its value becomes necessary.

E. A. S.
